Quarter Four: *The Gift of Prophecy*
Jill Morikone
Lesson 9—Testing the Prophets
Friday: EGW – "Taste & See"
November 27, 2026

- This week: "Testing the Prophets"
- Does Ellen G. White fulfill the biblical tests of a true prophet?
    - #1: Physical phenomena, showing that a supernatural power is at work
    - #2: Harmony with the Word of God (never contradict Scripture)
    - #3: Emphasis on the centrality of Jesus & His salvation plan
    - #4: Fruit of the prophet's life & ministry (demonstrated over time…not perfection)
    - #5: Prophetic fulfillment (caveat of conditional prophecies

- She never referred to herself as a prophet: calling herself a messenger for God, instead.
- She wrote a great deal:
    - Importance to clarify whether quote was meant in a forthtelling or foretelling way, or simply a newsy letter to a friend or family.

- **1. Physical phenomena:**
    - Was there a supernatural power at work in regards to her visions / dreams?
        - Greater than normal strength:
            - Holding Bible aloft when weak
                - Longest vision of nearly 4 hours took place in 1845
                - Recited text after text while pointing to the exact place in the Bible with her finger (although the Bible was over her head)
            - Speaking loudly when called to share
        - Physical phenomena
            - She stopped breathing during visions – as confirmed by doctors who examined her in vision

- **2. Harmony with the Word**
    - Do her writings agree with Scripture?
        - Her writings consistently point to the Bible as the only rule of faith & doctrine (Christian Education, p. 118)
        - Importance of rightly interpreting her writings (like with Scripture)
            - Approach with an open heart & with prayer
            - Study historical & cultural context (bicycle)
            - Study in context
                - Some Scriptures could initially look incongruent
                - Same with EGW writings

        - Does EGW writings teach –
            - Sunday sacredness?
            - An immortal soul?
            - Centrality of Jesus?

- **3. Emphasis on the centrality of Jesus**
    - Focus on Jesus, especially as her ministry progressed
        - Her writing & ministry shifted to a profoundly Jesus-focused (Christocentric) tone during the Australia years (1891 – 1900)
            - Most spiritually mature period
            - Followed the 1888 conference
        - EGW Quote from the Australia years: "Lift up Jesus. .. Lift Him up in sermon, song, & prayer."
        - Wrote these books in Australia
            - Steps to Christ
            - Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings
            - Desire of Ages
            - Christ's Object Lessons
        - Personal diaries & letters from that time reveal deeply personal communion with Christ

- **4. Fruit of the prophet's life & ministry**
    - What is the result of her life & ministry?
        - Did she make mistakes? / was she perfect?
            - No, just like biblical prophets
        - Did her life showcase growth & maturity in the Christian walk?
            - Yes, just like biblical prophets
        - Early church development
            - Her prophetic insights helped unify early believers when they disagreed on doctrines
        - Later ministry work
            - Inspired the health work: hundreds of global hospitals, clinics, sanitariums; promoted principles of temperance & holistic living
            - Developed the publishing work: publishing houses around the world
                - She wrote 100,000 pages of prophetic, historical & practical counsel
            - Began the worldwide parochial school system from primary grades to universities
                - Vision for educational work was in 1872
                - SDA now has the largest Protestant parochial system in the world

- **5. Prophetic fulfillment**
    - EGW was a forth teller
        - Edification, exhortation & comfort
        - Her writings & speaking was forthtelling
    - EGW was also a foreteller (hundreds of visions during her lifetime)
        - She foretold that the secession of the southern states would lead to the Civil War
        - She foretold the property & land for the location for Avondale University in Australia
            - Pacific Union College in 1882

- Loma Linda University in 1905

- She foretold final events
- She foretold the destruction by fire of the R&H publishing house
  - Saw an angel with a sword of fire stretched over Battle Creek

- She foretold the spread & popularity of modern spiritualism

- She foretold dangers of certain medical practices of her day
  - Doctors of her day frequently prescribed mercury chloride & arsenic for infections & fevers
    - EGW spoke strongly against it

  - Doctors prescribed smoking to cure tuberculous
    - EGW called it a malignant & slow poison
  - EGW wrote about the mind-body connection – anticipating the field of psychosomatic medicine
    - She wrote about stress, anxiety & emotional distress manifesting as physical illness

  - EGW wrote about the link between diet & chronic disease – long before modern medicine linked saturated fats & heavy red meat consumption to cardiovascular disease & certain cancers
    - She wrote against excess sugar & heavy, high-fat diets